



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN March 2, 2010

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House Bill 5312 - An Act Concerning Child Day Care Services in Health Clubs

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 5312.

The Department already considers drop-in childcare operations in Health clubs exempt from licensing pursuant to section 19a-77(b)(5) of the Connecticut General Statutes, for those entities where drop-in supplementary child care operations are provided for educational or recreational purposes and the child receives such care infrequently where the parents are on the premises. Due to the exemption, the Department has limited ability to take enforcement action against these facilities.

HB 5312 is different from the current exemption by requiring the drop in childcare facilities located in health centers to give notice to DPH of establishment and comply with certain requirements including conducting background checks of the child abuse registry. It would further provide the Department the authority to monitor and investigate a complaint against those operations. However, as currently written, the Department has no authority to take action against a health club in response to negative findings from its inspections and/or complaint investigations.

As currently written, the Department would require additional staff to track drop-in programs established by health clubs, conduct DCF Registry background checks, and monitor, inspect and investigate complaints as necessary. As this funding is not provided for in the Governor's budget, we cannot support this bill at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on these bills.

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